

## TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS OCTOBER, 2017

The best month yet September seemed special with 119 species but for October there were 129 (last October there were just 80 species). I surveyed every day for a total of 175 hours. So far this year I have recorded 206 species with an overall total of 225. There were 4,429 birds on the 10<sup>th</sup> with 4,553 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There were 48 species on the 26<sup>th</sup> with 51 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. There have been 37 additions to the list so far this year. A major part of the success was this month down to the strong easterly winds the strongest winds were from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> and from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Common Loons were seen from the 28<sup>th</sup> with nine on the 29<sup>th</sup>. There was a Pied-billed Grebe sitting on the sea on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The next species was not expected the Northern Fulmar! There was one on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, two on the 4<sup>th</sup> and four on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Cory's Shearwaters totaled 129 for the month with higher counts of 23 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 24 on the 4<sup>th</sup>. The main passage ended on the 23<sup>rd</sup> but there were two on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Included in the total of 129 there were a minimum of 21 Scopoli's Shearwaters they were seen to the 21<sup>st</sup> with five on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were a total of 35 Greater Shearwaters with 15 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 12 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> the last was on the 15<sup>th</sup>. There were 16 Sooty Shearwaters on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with one on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Manx Shearwaters were unexpected there were 2 on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 1 on the 5<sup>th</sup>, one on the 6<sup>th</sup> and one on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Petrels were very scarce there were single Leach's Storm-Petrels on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> with a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were single Brown Boobies on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Northern Gannets were seen from the 15<sup>th</sup>. There was a single American White Pelican on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Finally for this group there were single Magnificent Frigatebirds on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

To my surprise an American Bittern flew to the north on the 6<sup>th</sup>. There was a Reddish Egret on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There were four Green Herons on the 17<sup>th</sup> a new high count. There were two Roseate Spoonbills on the 13<sup>th</sup> with 44 flying to the south on the 30<sup>th</sup> that was another high count. Black Vultures peaked at 143 on the 28<sup>th</sup> and Turkey Vultures at 540 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Ducks have only just started there were 13 Gadwall on the 30<sup>th</sup> with two American Wigeon on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was a drake Mallard flying to the south on the 30<sup>th</sup> it was with a flock of ten cormorants so it could well be a wild bird. Blue-winged Teal peaked at 980 on the 7<sup>th</sup>. There were 11 Northern Pintail on the 29<sup>th</sup> and Green-winged Teal peaked at 565 on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There were two Ring-necked Ducks on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Lesser Scaup were seen from the 20<sup>th</sup> with 110 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. On the 26<sup>th</sup> two White-winged and one Black Scoter flew to the north. Finally for this group there were three Red-breasted Mergansers on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

There was a new high count of nine Ospreys on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There were five Northern Harriers on the 29<sup>th</sup> (new high count) with one on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen from the 7<sup>th</sup> with a new high count of three on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Perhaps the most unexpected bird of the month was an adult Golden Eagle drifting to the north over the Halifax River on the 30<sup>th</sup>. There were ten Merlins this month with six on the 18<sup>th</sup> a new high count. Peregrine Falcons were plentiful with a total of 807 for the month with 178 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 221 on the 4<sup>th</sup> (new high count), 135 on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 144 on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

There was an American Oystercatcher on the 6<sup>th</sup> with three on the 17<sup>th</sup>. There were two Dunlin on the 29<sup>th</sup> with 24 Long-billed Dowitchers on the 24<sup>th</sup> another new high count. On the 31<sup>st</sup> there was a Wilson's Snipe just the second record for the park. There was a Red-necked Phalarope on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with single Red Phalaropes on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. In all for the month there were 14 Pomarine Jaegers with five on the 19<sup>th</sup>. There were 211 Parasitic Jaegers with 85 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 64 on the 4<sup>th</sup>. There was a Long-tailed Jaeger on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There were single Sabine's Gulls on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> with two on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Now for the moment to more normal sea birds there were 21 Caspian Terns on the 24<sup>th</sup> a new high count. The highest count of Royal Terns for the month was that of 1,095 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sandwich Terns peaked at 125 on the 1<sup>st</sup>. There were single Arctic Terns on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> with three on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Now we go back to the pelagic species. There were three Bridled Terns on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with three again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and five on the 4<sup>th</sup> (the highest count). For the Sooty Tern there were two on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup>. Brown Noddies were very unexpected there were two on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, two on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, seven on the 4<sup>th</sup> and one on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Totally out of season was a Razorbill which flew to the south on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Now to the ordinary birds there were two Eastern Phoebe on the 24<sup>th</sup> with single Loggerhead Shrikes on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. There was a Red-eyed Vireo on the 8<sup>th</sup>. There was an American Crow on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. There were two Ruby-crowned Kinglets in the Sea Grapes on the 25<sup>th</sup> with one on the 26<sup>th</sup>. There was a Gray-cheeked Thrush on the 16<sup>th</sup> with a Gray Catbird on the 31<sup>st</sup>; there was a late Northern Parula on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Palm Warblers were seen from the 9<sup>th</sup> with six on the 25<sup>th</sup> a high count. There were single Savannah Sparrows on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. On the 26<sup>th</sup> there were single Indigo and Painted Buntings. There were also nine Bobolinks on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Finally there were three American Goldfinches on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

So what will November bring?

Harry Robinson